







Behind the Scenes of the New Movie Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince Your favorite HP stars reveal the secrets of making this hot summer film.

18 Animal Talk

Lifestyles of the Rich and Furry Pools shaped like bones and limousines for cats and



Departments









- **Weird But True** Sports Funnies
- **Guinness World Records** Bet You Didn't Know
- **Amazing Animals** Fun Stuff What in the World?



On the Cover

HOW BIG IS YOUR **BACKYARD?**

IT'S BIGGER THAN YOU THINK.



REI's Passport to

Kids' active tees & capris \$14.50-\$46





Kites starting at \$26



FIND OUT



For a free catalog, or to find a store near you, call 1-800-426-4840 or visit REI.com. Prices good through August 31, 2009.



Check out these 9 outrageous facts.













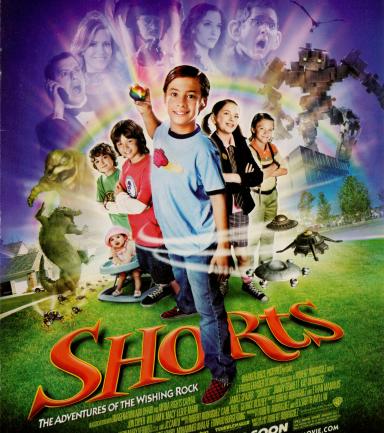








NOT SO TALL TALES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'SPY KIDS'



COMING SOON WWW.SHORTSMOVIE.COM

World Records

Go online for more information about Guinness World Records! kids.nationalgeographic.com/Videos

STRETCHY SKIN

Garry "Stretch" Turner holds the record for the stretchiest skin. Besides stretching out his cheeks, Turner can pull skin from his neck over his mouth, and catch a half-size basketball in the stretched-out skin from his stomach. Turner was born with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, a rare condition that makes his body's collagen—sort of like a glue that holds skin cells together defective, resulting in stretchy skin. But Turner doesn't see his condition as a disease. He sees it more like a talent that he loves to show off.





A duck in the water isn't surprising—unless it's 82 feet tall Conard de Boin (loosely, "Rubber Ducky" in French) is the largest plastic duck. Created by artist Florentijn Hofman, it was one of 30 art installations along the Loire River in France. Tourists could view the art, but the duck wasn't always there. If the wind blew more than 37 miles an hour, a computer instructed the duck to deflate!

NO JACKET REQUIRED

No one blames you for wanting a PlayStation Portable (PSP). But craving a \$35,000 PSP jacket might be a bit much. The most expensive PSP cover commercially avail-

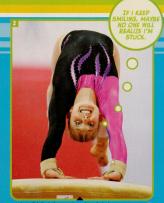
commercially available is made with a pound of solid gold and covered in black and yellow diamonds. Sounds cool. But you might have to spend even more money on a security guard to protect it!



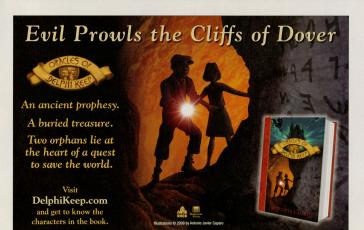




Golfer Rory Sabbatini of South Africa shoos off an uninvited kangaroo during the 2007 Australian PGA Championship.



Australia's Daria Joura competes in vault during a 2 artistic gymnastics tournament in Beijing, China.





wacky facts about **Science**

- Some clouds are more than
- 2

 Share more than half of their genes.

3

Astronomers
have discovered a

that is made of a 10-billion-trillion-trillionon Neptune was as wide as the entire

Ealf M.

5 There are Volcanoes inside in Iceland.

can be made out of a

Chewing
Chewing
Can make your
heart beat

NATIONAL

Grab your cameral Take a photograph of something in your world that fits one or more of these four categories: humor, animals, scenery, or people. The First Place Winner in each category will go on to compete against other First Place Winners from other National Geographic photography contests being held internationally. The best photo will win the photographer a Grand Prize trip to Washington, Du.C.









CONTEST PRIZES

GFour First Place Winners (one for each category) will win a National Geographic Kids Pet Cam a copy of the National Geographic Kids Almanac 2010, a National Geographic Alcol-piece puzzle, and entry into the Worldwide National Geographic Society International Photography Contest for Kids for a chance to win the Grand Prize trip. The Grand Prize Winner (selected from First Place Winners around Washington, D.C., plus a special tour of National Geographic Society headquarters.

Ö Four Second Place Winners (one for each category) will win a National Geographic Kids Ant Farm Gel Colony, a copy of the National Geographic Kids Almanac 2010, and a National Geographic 1,000piece puzzle.

Entries must be postmarked by November 2, 2009, so enter today!

Go online for official rules and entry requirements. kids.nationalgeographic.com/contests/Photos

IMPORTANT ENTRY INFORMATIO

KO PADOLE NACISATION A 18 YOURS WILL NOT A SPECIAL WILL NAMES OF WHERE IT IS THE OWNER TO SERVICE THE OWNER TO SERVICE WILL NAME AND A SERVICE WILL NA



t may seem as if the world's oceans are so vast that nothing could hurt them. Unfortunately, that's not true. The oceans suffer from people dumping stuff that they don't want (pollution) and taking too much from the ocean that they do want (overfishing). You can help turn this problem around.

You probably already know how to help fight pollution: Participate in stream. river, and beach cleanups; don't litter; and don't dump things into storm drains, But you may not realize that too many fishincluding the bluefin tunas at left—are taken from the sea. Some overfished species are disappearing—such as sharks.

People kill 100 million sharks every year. The desire for shark fin soup is one big reason so many sharks die. These fish are caught, their fins cut off to be sold, and the rest of their bodies are thrown back into the sea.

Many fish are slow growing, and live decades or even centuries. Orange roughies can live to be more than 100 years old. Rockfish can live to be 200! And Chilean seabass live 40 years. When there aren't enough of these slow-growing fish. it threatens the species because the fish often are taken from the sea before they are old enough to reproduce. These species could disappear.

Use the pocket guide below to help protect the ocean's creatures.

TO USE YOUR POCKET GUIDE, CUT ALONG THE DOTTED WHITE LINE AND FOLD ON THE BLACK LINES LIKE AN ACCORDION.

choose carefully what fish to eat. Some in ways that harm the ocean. Cut out this take-along guide and ask your and how the fish was caught. Saving marine life is hard, but if everyone

BEST CHOICES abalone (farmed)

catfish (U.S.) caviar/sturgeon char, Arctic (farmed) clams (farmed) clams, softshell crab, Dungeness crawfish (U.S.)

mackerel, Atlantic mahimahi (U.S. troll) mullet (U.S.)

pink/sockeye sardines (U.S.) (Oregon) shrimp (U.S. farmed) spot prawn (Canada) squid, longfin (U.S.) tilapia (U.S.) (farmed)

(Canada, U.S.)

salmon (Alaska wild)

WORST CHOICES caviar/sturgeon

TROLL: to fish with lines towed

by a boat

TRAWL: to fish with a cone-shaped net dragged behind a boat



DEFINITIONS

FARMED: fish raised commercially in enclosures

LONGLINE: fishing with a long line (up to 50 miles long) that has short lines attached with baited hooks



See the Bigger Picture

Biodiversity is the huge variety and complexity of life on Earth. All the different plants and animals on the planet, including us, are connected in amazing ways. This means that even a small animal has a big part to play in keeping nature in balance—that's the bigger picture. Right now, biodiversity is being threatened and species lost. But we can preserve biodiversity if we all act wisely. There's still time for us to save endangered plants and animals if we work

together to protect the places where they live. We just have to help everyone see the

He's a fantastic National Geographic photographer who travels the world

photographing endangered species. Joel's photos help people to understand the problem and to care about protecting biodiversity.



bigger picture.

Follow the connections from the species to you.



Honeubees are

disappearing



Forests are being cut down



Amphibians are endangered



Grab your camera and enter our photo contest for a chance to win a trip to the home of National Geographic in Washington, D.C. Take a photo of what biodiversity means to you, submit your

shot, and learn more at www.seethebiggerpicture.org







Fewer trees to absorb CO₂ from the air



Too many mosquitoes









Mosquitoes carry disease



Many fruits, nuts, and



Less clean air



Airbus is a company that is fully

engaged in continuous improvement of its processes to better protect the environment. They design and build aircraft that are quieter, greener, and cleaner. Together Airbus and National Geographic support the UN backed project, The Green Wave, in the world's most far-reaching biodiversity program for families and kids







PUPPIES SAVE LOST KID

Virgilina, Virginia

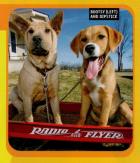
Jaylynn Thorpe's family was terrified when the 3-year-old wandered off into the woods on a frigid 17°F night. Thankfully, Bootsy and Dipstick the puppies wandered off with him—and probably saved his life.

While rescue workers searched for Jaylynn with scent-sriffing dogs and a heat-seeking helicopter, the puppies nestled around the shivering boy. They pressed against him all night and kept him warm—and alive. They treated him like another puppy in their litter, says veterinarian Emily Kinnaird. They snuggled to keep warm."

Twenty hours later, rescuers were nearby. But a scared Jaylynn hid



rdy, But a scared Jaylynn hid beneath a pile of leaves. Once again, the puppies played the heroes, barking to alert the rescue team. Jaylynn soon was reunited with his family, cold and hungry but unhurt. "The puppies were very important to his survival," says fire chief Chad Loftis. —Johnna Rizzo





TORTOISE LUVS 2 SK8

Jerusalem, Israel

No one expects tortoises to be speed demons. But when Arava the African spurred tortoise got a "skateboard" for her back legs, she became speedier than most.

Arava had arrived at the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo unable to move her hind legs. "She wouldn't eat and tucked her head inside her shell," says veterinarian Nili Avni-Magen. "She seemed so sad." The medical staff couldn't find a reason for the

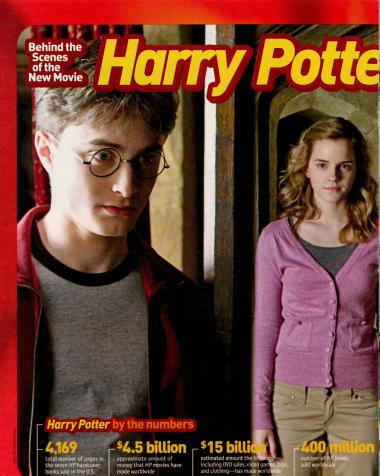
Arava could still use her front legs, so a metalworker built a two-wheelde metal platform with straps to go around Arava's shell. When Arava first tried out her "Sateboard," she took a few steps with her front legs and started roiling, Now she zips around her enclosure on her board, "outrunning" the other tortoises. Arava has a long life to look forward to—unless she tries to ollie out of a ramp.

paralysis, but they had a solution; wheels!





Arava is
11 years old.
Tortoises like
her can live to be
70 years old.





AGE: 20

QUALITIES HE SHARES WITH HARRY-Loyalty, curiosity, and getting into trouble FAVORITE RREAKFAST: Toast with

chocolate spread MAGICAL ABILITY HE'D LIKE TO

HAVE: Invisibility FAVORITE TV SHOW: The Simpsons FAVORITE HP CHARACTER: Hagrid



IMA WATSON

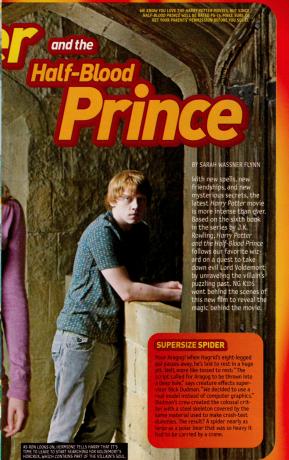
(HERMIONE GRANGER)

DEAL PLACE TO APPARATE: France. where she lived till she was 5 AVORITE DRINK: Orange juice mixed with lemonade

EXPLORE IN A PENSIEVE: Johnny Depp's (her favorite actor) REAL-LIFE HP MOMENT: Attending an elementary school called the **Dragon School**

NUMBER OF TIMES SHE AUDITIONED TO PLAY HERMIONE: 8





ACTOR PROFILES

RUPERT GRINT (RON WEASLEY)

AGE: 21

CLASS HE'D TAKE AT HOGWARTS: Transfiguration

LEAST FAVORITE FOOD: Celery HP CREATURE YOU'D THINK HE'D FEAR BUT DOESN'T: Aragog-Even though I'm superscared of spiders."

ITEM HE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: His pickup truck DEAL PLACE TO APPARATE Any golf course, anytime



JESSIE CAVE (LAVENDER BROWN)

AGE: 22

CLASS SHE'D TAKE AT HOGWARTS: Flying

FAVORITE FOOD: Coffee ice cream DEAL PLACE TO APPARATE Top of Peak Tower in Hong Kong, China

DREAM VACATION SPOT: Fiji THE "UNBREAKABLE VOW" SH LIVES BY: To be noble and kind





HAIR-WOLF

There may not be any goats in plenty of goat hair. Just ask Dave Legeno, who plays werewolf Fenrir Greyback. Makeup artists spent three hours each day gluing thousands of individual goat hairs to Legeno's face, arms, and legs. "We dyed white goat hair black to make it look more authentic," Dudman says. "The result is a realistic-looking werewolf, better than any computer could create."

MINI ME

When a cursed hexes Hogwarts student Katie into the air like a raq doll. But that's mannequin-not a real girl-flying over the set. "It was freaky to see this fake Katie lying around," says Rupert Grint, who like her." The only difference? The mannequin is just That way, Katie looks even tinier Hagrid, who comes

A traveling HP museum exhibit—showcasing costumes and props from the films-opened this spring. The exhibit will travel throughout the United States for five years, so chances are good that it will come to a city near you.

For about \$1,100 a night, you can stay in the hotel room where J.K. Rowling finished writing Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, the last book in the series. Room 552 in the Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland, contains a statue signed by the author that says, "JK Rowling finished writing Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows in this room (552) on 11th Jan 2007

Until they were stopped, a company in China illegally published fake HP sequels, with titles such as Harry Potter and





RING OF FIRE

As Death Eaters descend on the Weasleys' Burrow, the dwelling appears to catch on fire. But no homes were harmed to film this scene-rather, the crew constructed a flammable ring around the Burrow set. Surrounded by 20-foot flames, the Burrow appears to be engulfed in the fire, when actually it was completely untouched. "They lit the ring, and the flames jumped so high!" says Bonnie Wright, who plays Ginny Weasley. "It really

ACTOR PROFILES

TOM FELTON (DRACO MALFOY)

AGE: 21

CLASS HE'D TAKE AT HOGWARTS: Potions

FAVORITE FOOD Chocolate ice cream

WHOSE MEMORIES HE'D EXPLORE IN A PENSIEVE: Beatle Paul McCartney's-"I'd watch him write his most famous songs." DREAM VACATION SPOT: Turtle

Island in Fiji

THE "UNBREAKABLE VOW" HE LIVES BY: Don't forget to feed the dog.



NNIE WRIGHT

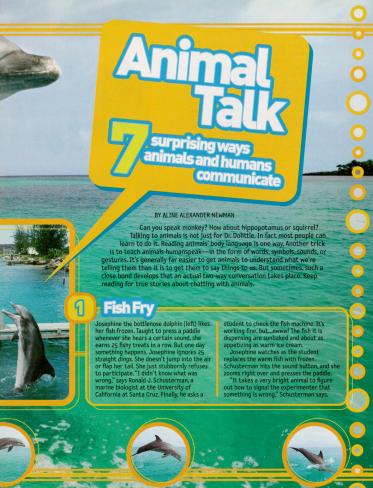
(GINNY WEASLEY) E- 18

IDEAL PLACE TO APPARATE: Any island in the Caribbean FAVORITE FOOD: Salad THE "UNBREAKABLE VOW" SHE LIVES

BY: Always be a loyal friend. DREAM VACATION SPOT: Africa WHOSE MEMORIES SHE'D EXPLORE IN A PENSIEVE: Her parents', to unearth secrets from their







2 Say Again?

Boring. That's what most kids think when somebody asks them the same question over and over. Apparently, Alex the African gray parrot (right) agrees.

Behavioral psychologist Irene Pepperberg, of Brandeis and Harvard universities, presents a tray of different-colored blocks. Two are green, three blue, and six red. "What color three?" she asks, expecting Alex to say "blue."

But Alex has been there, done that. He seems to want Pepperberg to ask a different question—one that requires a brand-new answer. So he deliberately gives a wrong answer.

"Five," says the parrot, stating a number instead of a color.
Surprised that Alex gives the wrong answer, the psychologist asks again, "What color three?"

"Five," repeats Alex. He keeps giving that wrong answer until Pepperberg grows frustrated.

"OK, smarty-pants," she finally blurts. "What color five?"
This is it—the question he's been waiting for.

"None," squawks the brainy bird.







Horses talk with their bodies. Knowing that helps Dennis Wright, a horse communicator from Arlington, Washington, calm a wild-eyed,

rampaging thoroughbred. On entering the arena, Wright expects the

horse to charge. When it does, he throws up his arms to mimic a rearing stallion and yells. Spooked, the thoroughbred thunders away, and Wright moves into his spot. This makes Wright the alpha horse, or leader,

As the panicked horse circles, Wright doesn't chase or lasso him. Instead, he repeatedly steps in front of him, forcing the horse to change direction. That wins respect. Last, Wright raises

one hand and turns his back, showing trust. That horse isn't crazy," says Wright, "He's afraid, and lonely for his herd." By acting the way horses do with each other, Wright makes him feel secure.

Twenty minutes after their first meeting, the thoroughbred approaches Wright, and man and horse walk together, as friends.

> NOTHING SCARES ME!

In Touch

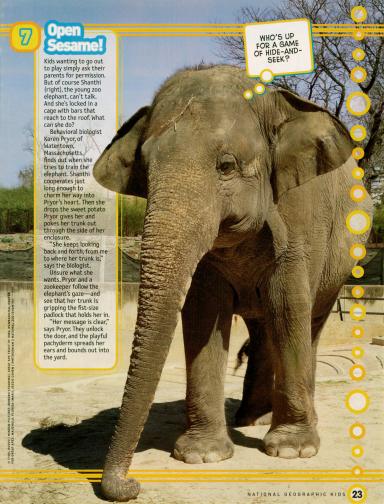
An alert dog "hears" everything we say. even when our message is unspoken. At the age of 13. radio pet show host Harrison Forbes had a mysterious problem

with his American Staffordshire terrier, PJ. Whenever Forbes's mom walked the dog, PJ would pick a fight with a neighbor's Rottweiler. But if Forbes walked PJ along the same route, the two dogs would sniff and play. Forbes never knew why, until he was an adult.

He had a long talk with his mom and discovered she was terrified of Rottweilers. Weighing about 100 pounds, with large heads and powerful muscles, Rottweilers can look scary. Without even knowing it, his mother tensed every time she met one. PJ picked up on that fear. "A leash is like an electric power cord," says Forbes. "Your feelings, whether of confidence or anxiety, travel straight to the dog."

So remember: If your dog misbehaves, maybe changing your own behavior could help.





OUTRAGEOUS WAYS TO PAMPER YOUR PET

BY SARAH WASSNER FLYNN

howing love for your pet doesn't cost a thing. Still, pet owners last year spent more than 40 billion dollars on their pets-including about \$250 a year just on food and treats for each cat and dog. "We like to reward our pets for always being there for us," says Bob Vetere of the American Pet Products Association, NG KIDS takes a look at some very posh pets.



■ GETTIN' WIGGY

When Romeo the Yorkshire terrier wants to step out in style, he slips on a hot-pink wig. Lenny the Cavalier King Charles spaniel dons dreadlocks when he cruises the park. The price of the \$40 hairpieces may cause some people to, uh, wig out. "But some owners spare no expense to keep their pets posh," says Ruth Regina, founder of the doggiewig company Wiggles. "The dogs and the owners love how much attention they get when they wear the wigs."



Forget curling up on ratty blankets-Tigger the tabby takes catnaps on a fancy four-poster bed that's just his size. Honey the Bengal kitty keeps her clothes in a custom-built dresser fit for a princess. The fabulous felines are living in luxury with the \$600 hand-carved furniture set. "It's just like actual furniture, only petsize," says Melissa Pearcy, owner of Not So Shabby Pets. One difference? "The bed's probably more comfy than most beds for people!"



▼HOLY "MUTT-RIMONY"

Flowers: \$1,000. Satin bridal gown: \$500. "Pup-cakes": \$100. Watching two dogs get "married" at a fancy

wedding? Priceless. At least that's what some owners think when they cough up major cash for a pet wedding. "It's a way to honor the puppy love and have fun," says pet party planner Alma Rose Middleton. who has "married" dogs such as Boo Boo and Mimi after they

"fell in love" at a birthday party. The cost of a to-drool-for wedding? Up to \$8,000!

▼HOTEL FOR DOGS

Heading on vacation but just can't part with your pet? Don't worry-many hotels offer special services for furry quests. Las Ventanas al Paraíso resort in Los Cabos,

Mexico, offers pooch-only pool cabanas so dogs can relax in shady comfort. The Little Nell in Aspen, Colorado, gives each dog a per-

tag and spring Chicago Hotel in Illinois brings up bones and sweet treats from the kitchen. Sounds like these hotels are

really going to the dogs!

◆ THE SUITE LIFE

A regular kennel just won't do for pets like Chloe the Mi-Ki dog. When her owners go out of town, they put her up at Paradise 4 Paws outside of Chicago, Illinois, one of many pet hotels opening around the country. There, Chloe can watch Soccer Dog: The Movie on a flat-screen TV, or check out the scene at the bone-shaped splashing pool. "She's just as spoiled there as she is at home," says owner Renee Miastkowski. At the Barkley Pet Hotel in Orange Village, Ohio, guests ride in a stretch "cat-illac" limousine and indulge in "paw-dicures.



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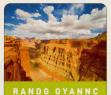
games, laughs, and lots to do!

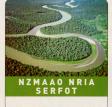
Find and circle at least ten things that are wrong in this scene. ANSWERS ON PAGE 31

NATURAL WONDERS

These images show some of the world's most famous natural sights. Unscramble the letters to identify what's in each picture. ANSWERS ON PAGE 31









Play interactive "What in the World?" and other games online kids national geographic com













KEMOUN'

Create a FUN COLLAGE about a FAVORITE SUMMER memory.

GIVE YOUR MEMORY BOOK A TITLE WITH STICK-ON LETTERS.

> BOOKING PAPER TO CREATE A FUN

BACKGROUND.

MPING



This summer's camping trip was the best! how the tent fell on Dad's head

nes before he finally got it to stand up.

Remember how we learned to make breakfast over the campfire? USE SCRAP-

Then we hiked to an Waterfal

heard a bear in the woods.

CUT PICTURES OUT OF MAGAZINES THAT RELATE TO

Luckily it was just a Cute fawn with its mom.

TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED

such as a vacation, family picnic, niking trip, birthday party, or holiday. Hand-write neatly or use a computer. Use big letters and different colors.

GATHER MEMORABILIA related to the event, such as photos, postcards, foreign money, or ticket stubs.

PICK OUT A SCRAPBOOK OF PILOC USE SCRAPBOOK INSERT PAPER OF construction paper as the base of the collage. Make sure the paper fits the size of the book, (0r you can make a collage on a large for forth book (0r you can make a collage on a large forth book (0r you can the forth of the forth of your memory book. Add a new collage or two every year.

ALSO TRY THE OTHER FUI THEAS ON THESE PAGES. Ask for a parent's permission to use family photos before you get started.

8 WILD!
INCLUDE
NATURAL ITEMS SUCH
AS DRIED FLOWERS,
A FEATHER, OR
SMALL SHELLS.

and found this cool feather on the trail.

That night,

the family from the next campsite came for dinner.

We made s'mores and sang songs until even their dog Rufus started snoring.

TAKE NOT
WANT TO
INCLUDE A SPE
NOTE OR POSTO

INCLUDE A SPECIAL
NOTE OR POSTCARD?
GLUE ON AN ENVELOPE
AND TUCK YOUR
NOTE INSIDE.

MAKE PICTURES
OUT OF TISSUE PAPER
AND CONSTRUCTION

PAPER.

When we got home, we received this postcard

from our new friends inviting us to go

camping with them next year!

PICTURE

INCLUDE PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR FAMILY AND/OR PETS. DECORATE
WITH COOL
STICKERS.

NANASTOCK / JUPITERIMAGES (FAMILY);
PITERIMAGES / COMBITOCK (MAGES / ALAMY);
TO ROBERT GLUSIC / CORBIS (WATERFALL);
Y ELIS / MINDEN PICTURES / NATIONA;
RAPHIC STOCK (DEER); KLAUS-PETER WOLF /
NO MAGES (FOOL); OT THE (TYTHAGRIS; VANING);

picture (or make a photocopy of it).

3. Mail it along with

3. Mail it along with your name, address, phone number, and date of birth to No KIDS, Back Talk, P.O. Box 96000, WASHINGTON, DC 20090-6000. Selection for publication in a future issue will be at the discretion of No KIDS.



From the March Issue

Oh, man! I got it up my nose. Allayna Brooke G., 14

That was great! What's for dessert? Jacob R., 10

Got milk? Ryan P., 9 Great Falls, Virginia

Finally, a chocolateflavored facial.

Delaney W., 12
Mr.Murray Pennsylvania I hope you pay us well for this.

Erin D., 8 Alexandria, Virginia

Who's up for seconds?

Has anyone seen my fork?

Regan W., 9 Minster, Ohio

Will this help with my complexion? Michael P., 12 Windham, New York





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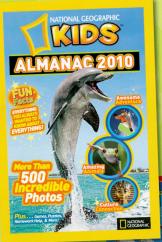
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